

LONDON *End to Hanging*
The "Abolition of the Death Penalty" bill has passed its second reading in Parliament by a majority (355-170) consisting of all Labor and Liberal members and nearly half of the Tories. (Public opinion polls show a large popular majority on the other side, but these were scornfully dismissed in the parliamentary debate.) It will be made law some time in 1965. While awaiting its final disposition, the government is reprieving death

Abroad

sentences passed but not yet carried out on two or three offenders, and trying to figure out what ought to be done to murderers now that hanging is out. The same reasoning that dictated abolition of the death penalty seems to rule out permanent imprisonment also—a logical coincidence that disturbed some citizens when, on the day of the second reading, a man convicted of several particularly frightful murders escaped from Wormwood Scrubs prison, and, over the holidays, London had more murders than in any week on record.

NICOSIA

Frozen at the Brink

The contending forces in Cyprus, under the eye of UN mediator Galo Plaza, have for the past four months been suspended in a troubled truce that many observers believe will end after the scheduled UN debate on the Cyprus question. There is virtually no communication between the Greek and Turkish communities. In the rigidly controlled "Green Line" Nicosia has its Berlin Wall, dividing the Greek and Turkish sections. The Turks are shut out of the economy, and exist chiefly on grants from the Turkish Government and the Red Crescent (Turkish Red Cross). Archbishop Makarios is abolishing, one after another, the two-community provisions of the Zurich constitution. Large-scale fighting has stopped for the time being, but there are nightly brawls, and a continuing plastic-bomb campaign that was launched in October.

OTTAWA

The Unifoil

Adoption of the new flag (by a vote of 163-78) came after the longest and most bitter controversy in parliamentary memory. The unifoil design of a single red maple leaf on a white field bordered by vertical red bands won out over Prime Minister Lester Pearson's earlier proposal for a trefoil design with three crossed maple leaves representing, respectively, English-Canadian, French-Canadian and Neo-Canadian. Replacement of the old flag—essentially the British merchant marine emblem with the Union Jack in one corner—signifies a political victory for Quebec and the French-Canadians allied with intransigent nationalists of the contemporary uhuru mode. (If Zambia can have its own flag, why not Canada?)

CAPE TOWN

Don Shall Not

Minister of Justice Vorster means business when he declares that no "listed Communist" (known member of the Party prior to its banning and officially presumed to have continued his allegiance) may teach in a South African university. Last month the government issued an order to H. J. Simons, associate professor of government at the University of Cape Town, which forbids him for the next five years: to teach anyone, except his own children, anything; to enter any township reserved for Africans, colored people or Asians; to enter any compound or any factory; to attend any meeting; to publish or prepare for publication in any form anything on any subject, political or scientific; to attend any court of law unless required as a witness; to communicate with any other banned person; to leave the jurisdiction of Cape Town. A similar ban was served a week earlier on Edward Roux, professor of botany at Witwatersrand University.



King, Australian Bulletin

Ben Roth Agency

"That's Carmichael our commitment to Malaysia, Shadbolt our commitment to Borneo, O'Toole our commitment to Vietnam, and Gribble our defense of the mainland."

MOSCOW

Memory Slot

Last September Indian President Radhakrishnan visited the Soviet Union for a week. His host was Nikita Khrushchev. A documentary film was made, with many a shot featuring Khrushchev and Radhakrishnan together. A formal joint communiqué was issued at the conclusion, signed by Anastas Mikoyan for the Soviet Union, and cast in typically Khrushchevian language. Shortly afterward a propaganda brochure appeared, telling about all the speeches, receptions and other events. It was just then that Nikita vanished. Vanished in his wake is the film. The brochure was withdrawn (a few copies had already got around), and another version released without the name or face of President R.'s host. Even the communiqué—an official document of both nations—has been reissued in a revised non-Khrushchevian version.

Copyright of National Review Bulletin is the property of National Review Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.